(a) what is the total number of child labour engaged in hazardous industries in the country and how many of them are engaged in glass bangle industry at Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) wnether it is a fact that the children engaged in glass bangle industry are becoming victims of TB and many of them suffer from that disease; and

(c) what steps are being taken-prop-osed to be taken to stop the exploitation of child labour by these industries?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) According to 1981 census, the total child labour population in India was 13.6 million. This figure rose to 17.02 million on the basis of the 43rd round of National Sample Survey conducted in 1987-88. The bulk of child labour is engaged in agriculture and allied employments including house-hold occupations. Out of the total child labour population, around two million children are estimated to be working in hazardous occupations and processes. According to the information received from State Government of Uttar Pradesh, the number of children below the age of 14 years working in glass bangle industry in Ferozabad is 18126.

(b) Child labour engaged in various manufacturing processes in the glass industry is prone to tuberculosis.

(c) The Steps taken by Central Government for withdrawal and rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations (including those working in glass bangle industry) include (a) ensuring compliance of the implementation of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and the provisions concerning children in other labour laws, (b) sanctioning of 76 National Child Labour Projects to cover about 1.5 lakh children in the child labour endemic States and (c) sanctioning of funds for carrying out surveys in 123 districts and for awareness-generation activities in 133 districts.

The measures initiated by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to ameliorate the conditions of Child Labour in glass bangle industry in Ferozabad include (a) organisation of awareness generation campaign against the practice of child labour, (b) organisation of a block level workshop in January, 1986 (c) withdrawal of 2936 children from work and putting them in 40 special schools set up in the district (d) strengthening the local enforement'machinery by developing additional inspection staff and launching special enforcement drives resulting in prosecution of 693 persons in 1995 and 142 persons in 1996 for violations of laws relating to working children, (e) earmarking of 10% benefits under various poverty alleviating programmes for the parents of working children, (f) launching of a drive for the medical check up of children enrolled in special schools and other children withdrawn from work with a view to finding the symptoms of TB if any and also with a view to securing general health and well-being of these children.

Default in the payment of wages to workers of PSUs

*358. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased 'to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are complaints of delay or default in the payment of wages to the workers of certain Public Sector Units;

(b) if so, the names of such units and the details of the defaulted/delayed payments of wages; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken against the authorities of such units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Some delays have taken place in timely payment of wages to the workers of some Public Sector Units. As and when such instances are brought to the notice of the Government, urgent reme-

dial measures are suggested to the Public Sector Units by the Administrative Ministry concerned. Some Public Sector Units which defaulted in timely payment of wages are Richardson & Cruddas, Instrumentation Ltd., Jessop & Co. Ltd., Reyrolle Burn Ltd., Heavy Engineering Corpn., Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd., Weighbird India Ltd., Praga Tools Ltd., NTC (AP, Kerala, Karnataka & Mahc) Ltd., NTC (Delhi, Punjab & Rajasthan) Ltd., NTC (MP) Ltd., U.P. Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Manipur State Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. etc.

भारत और अन्य देशों के बीच खनन क्षेत्र में निवेश समझौते

*359. श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव: क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारत और कुछ अन्य देशों के बीच, खनन क्षेत्र में कुछ निवेश समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है एवं इन समझौतों की शर्तें क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या मध्य प्रदेश में भी खनन क्षेत्र के मामले में विदेशी सहायता हेतु किसी समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए हैं;

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

इस्पात मंत्री तथा खान मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र प्रसाद बैश्य): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) से (ङ) मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने कहा है कि उसने खनन क्षेत्र में विदेशी सहायता के लिए कोई समझौता नहीं किया है।

Discrimination in Admissibility of DA In BALCO

*360. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have since received complaints of discrimination in amount and rate of Dearness Allowance admissible to officers of different categories (Technical) serving BALCO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have since taken action in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In similarly worded representations certain technical officials of BALCO represented that on account of adoption of Industrial Dearness Allowance pattern they are' suffering loss of thousands of rupees per month and are also not getting Dearness Allowance and other benefits after revision of Industrial Dearness Allowance Pay Scales.

(c) and (e) The Industrial Dearness Allowance pattern had been introduced in BALCO in pursuance of Directive of the Supreme Court and the instructions issued by Department of Public Enterprises thereafter, which covered 69 Public Sector Enterprises including BALCO. Thus, there is no discrimination of injustice to employees of BALCO. As regards the revision of Industrial Dearness Allowance Scales as per Department of Public Enterprises circular dated 19.7.1995, necessary orders have been issued by the Company.

Self employment for educated youth

2091. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for self-employment for educated unemployed youth is under implementation;

(b) if so, the broad objectives of the scheme and targets set and achievements made under the scheme during the last three years; and